(c) Passport Office, Patna takes about 5-6 weeks to issue a fresh passport.

(d) The total number of applications pending in Passport Office, Patna for six months and above is 493.

(e) Government have and shall continue to take steps to streamline the working of Passport Offices and issue passport expeditiously, such as augmentation of staff strength, upgradation of office facilities including computerisation, review of systems and procedures in order to reduce delays, regular inspections of passport offices and follow-up action.

National Super Highways

2243. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) which are the national Super Highways being planned presently;

(b) the details of each National Super Highway and the important towns/cities connected when implemented;

(c) through which cities/towns national Super Highway-2 will pass when constructed and also the States/total population in each which will be benefited;

(d) what will be its length;

(e) what are the salient features of National Super Highway;

(f) what will be the approximate cost of each National Super Highway;

(g) by when each National Super Highway work is expected to start; and

(h) whether any foreign collaboration is being sought for this work; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (f) The national Highways Authority of India have invited proposals from private sector for carrying out feasibility studies for 33 sections of Super National Highways, major towns/cities proposed to be connected and approximate length of each section are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). The exact length, the States/total population in each of the State to be benefited, the salient features of the Super National Highways as well as the approximate cost of each Super National Highway will be known only after completion of the feasibility studies.

(g) It is too early to indicate the time by which work on Super National Highways is expected to start.

(h) A Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Malaysia has been concluded seeking technical assistance in the field of investigation, design, preparation of bidding documents, concession agreements, etc. for Super National Highways.

Statement

Details of Super National Highway Sections for which Proposals have been invited by NHAI for Carrying out Feasibility Studies

Section	SNH No.	Length (km)
Delhi-Jaipur	SNH1	250
Jaipur-Udaipur	SNH1	400
Udaipur-Ahmedabad	SNH1	250
Ahmedabad-Bombay	SNH1	470
Bombay-Pune-Bangalore	SNH1	500

Section	SHN No.	Length (km)
Bangalore-Cochin	SNH1	500
Cochin-Trivandrum-Kanyakumari	SNH1	250
Link to Marmagao Port	SNH1C	250
Link to Mangalöre Port	SNH1D	300
Jaipur-Agra	SNH1A	220
Ahmedabad-Kandla	SNH1B	300
Amritsar-Chandigarh-Delhi	SNH2	450
Delhi-Kanpur	SNH2	400
Kanpur-Patna	SNH2	600
Patna-Dhanbad-Calcutta	SNH2	400
Calcutta-Bhubaneswar	SNH2	440
Bhubaneswar-Madras	SNH2	1100
Link to Haldia Port	SNH2A	50
Link to Paradeep Port	SNH2B	75
Link to Visakhapatnam Port	SNH2C	70
Madras-Kanyakumari	SNH-2	650
Link to Tuticorin Port	SNH2D	50
Srinagar-Jammu-Pathankot	SNH3	350
Pathankot-Jalandhar	SNH3	200
Patna-Guwahati	SNH4	500
Delhi-Agra	SNH5	220
Agra-Nagpur	SNH5	750
Nagpur-Hyderabad	SNH5	400
Hyderabad-Bangalore	SNH5	550
Bombay-Nagpur	SNH6	800
Nagpur-Rourkela	SNH6	650
Rourkela-Dhanbad	SNH6	250
Bangalore-Madras	SNH7	300

Restriction on the entry of Foreign Skilled Workers into the U.S.A.

2244. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Immigration Commission has imposed restrictions on the entry of foreign skilled workers into their countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the entry of Indian skilled workers is also affected by this regulation;

(c) if so, to what extent; and

(d) whether Government have moved in this matter; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The new US regulations, which came into effect on January 13, 1995, makes the timely procurement of visa difficult for Indian professionals. This could have an adverse impact on Indian professionals required to visit the US in connection with the delivery of services particularly in the field of software.

(d) Government have conveyed India's concern to the US Government at various levels, both in India and the US. It has been emphasized that the new rules will result in delays in the projects being undertaken by Indian organisations who